

TS - HAK 828

HHSaunders: HAK
to Sec State 11/10/71

State Dept. review completed

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November 10, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR**THE SECRETARY OF STATE****SUBJECT: Pakistani Clarifications**

The clarification of position below was delivered to my office by the Pakistani Embassy. During a brief introductory call by the Pakistani Ambassador-designate, I had referred to Ambassador Farland's report of his latest talk with President Yahya and noted that it was not clear exactly what response President Yahya expected from India before starting a unilateral pullback of his military forces. The clarification received in response is as follows:

As regards withdrawal of forces from the Indo-Pakistan border, the most appropriate and fair procedure would be for the armed forces of both the countries to withdraw simultaneously to mutually agreed safe distance. However, in the interest of peace and in order to provide an exit to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, President Yahya Khan would be willing to withdraw Pakistani forces first from the border to varying distances, depending upon the terrain of different sectors, provided the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, gives an undertaking to President Nixon that the Indian forces will then also withdraw shortly afterwards.

As regards political plans, the National Assembly of Pakistan is to meet towards the end of December and other consequential steps are to follow. This is according to political plans already announced by the President of Pakistan. There is no other development.

The point was also made orally that any such military move would involve substantial risk for Pakistan.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

/s/

Henry A. Kissinger

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